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TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
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6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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Viral '6-7' tops 2025 list of overused words and phrases

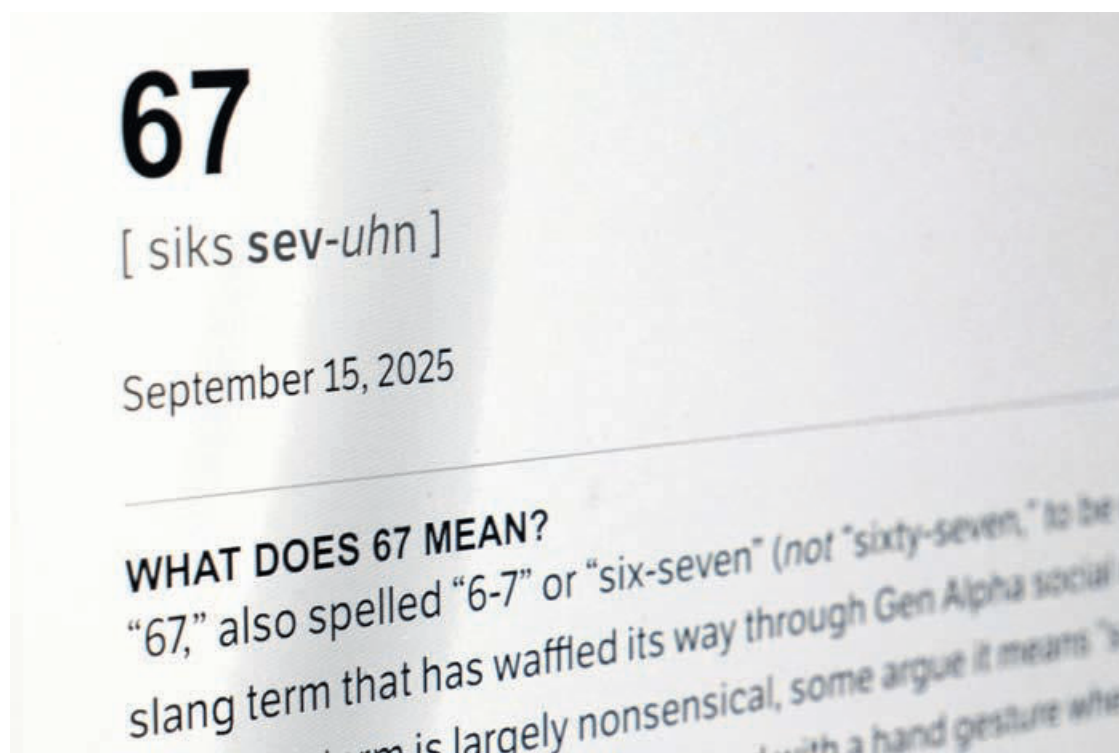
By **COREY WILLIAMS**
Associated Press

Respondents to an annual Michigan college survey of overused and misused words and phrases say "6-7" is "cooked" and should come to a massive full-stop heading into the new year.

Those are among the top 10 words on the 50th annual "Banished Words List," released Thursday by Lake Superior State University. The tongue-in-cheek roundup of overused slang started in 1976 as a New Year's Eve party idea, and is affectionately called the list of "Queen's English for Misuse, Over-use and General Uselessness."

Around 1,400 submissions came from all 50 states and a number of countries outside the U.S., including Uzbekistan, Brazil and Japan, according to Lake Superior State.

Also in the top 10 are "demure," "incentivize," "perfect," "gift/gifted," "my bad" and "reach out." "My bad" and "reach out" also made the list decades ago — in 1998 and 1994, respectively. "The list definitely represents the fad and vernacular trends of the younger generation," said David Travis, Lake Superior State University president. "Social media



This Dictionary.com page shows the newest word of the year "6-7" on a computer screen, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, in Chicago.

Associated Press

allows a greater opportunity to misunderstand or misuse words. We're using terms that are shared through texting, primarily, or through posting with no body language or tone context. It's very easy to misunderstand these words." Few phrases in 2025 befuddled parents, teachers and others over the age of, say 40, more than "6-7." Dictionary.com even picked it as their 2025 word of the year, while other dictionaries chose words like "slop" and "

rage bait." But what does "6-7" actually mean? It exploded over the summer, especially among Gen Z, and is considered by many to be nonsensical in meaning — an inside joke driven by social media. "Don't worry, because we're all still trying to figure out exactly what it means," the dictionary's editors wrote. Each number can be spoken aloud as "six, seven." They even can be combined as the number 67; at college

basketball games, some fans explode when a team reaches that point total. The placement of "6-7" at the top of the banished list puts it in good company. In 2019, the centuries-old Latin phrase "quid pro quo" was the top requested phrase to ban from popular use. In 2017, "fake news" got the most votes. Alana Bobbitt, a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, is unapologetic about using

"6-7." "I find joy in it," Bobbitt said. "It's a little bit silly, and even though I don't understand what it means, it's fun to use." Jalen Brezzell says a small group of his friends use "6-7" and that it comes up a couple of times each week. But he won't utter it. "Never. I don't really get the joke," said Brezzell, a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "I don't see what's funny about it." But banning it, even in jest, might be a bit of a stretch, he said, adding that he does use other words and phrases on the list. "I've always used the word 'cooked,'" Brezzell said. "I just think it got popular on the internet over this past year. It's saying, like, 'give it up, it's over.'" Some of the phrases do have longevity, Travis said. "I don't think they'll ever go away, like 'at the end of the day,'" he said. "I used 'my bad' today. I feel comfortable using it. I started using it when I was young. A lot of us older people are still using it." Travis said that while some terms on the list "will stick around in perpetuity," others will be fleeting. "I think '6-7,' next year, will be gone," he said. □



An FBI seal is displayed on a podium before a news conference at the field office in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

GARY D. ROBERTSON and ERIK VERDUZCO
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The FBI said Friday it had disrupted a plot to attack a North Carolina grocery store and fast-food restaurant on New Year's Eve, arresting a man who officials said was inspired by the Is-

lamic State group and had pledged loyalty to the extremist militants.

Christian Sturdivant, 18, was charged with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terror organization after officials say he communicated his attack plans to an undercover FBI employee who was posing

FBI says it disrupted a potential New Year's Eve attack inspired by Islamic State group

as an encouraging confidant.

He was arrested by federal agents on Wednesday. He remained held following a Friday morning court appearance. Another hearing is set for Jan. 7. The lawyer representing Sturdivant in federal court on Friday didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

An FBI affidavit filed in the case said Sturdivant came under investigation last month following information that a social media account, which officials connected to Sturdivant, had made posts supportive of IS. Those included posts that depicted a ballistic vest and appeared to promote violence, the affi-

davit said, and the display name for the account referenced the name of the late IS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Sturdivant began communicating on social media with someone who he thought was supportive of his plans but who was actually an undercover FBI employee, the affidavit said. Russ Ferguson, the U.S. Attorney for western North Carolina, declined to name the grocery store and fast-food restaurant that were allegedly targeted, citing the ongoing investigation. But he said both were in Mint Hill, a small bedroom community of Charlotte. The affidavit says Sturdivant had been on the FBI's radar in January 2022, when he

was a minor, after officials learned that he had been in contact with an IS member in Europe and had received instructions to dress in all black, knock on people's doors and commit attacks with a hammer. Sturdivant did actually set out for a neighbor's house armed with a hammer and a knife but was restrained by his grandfather, the affidavit says. Other IS-inspired attacks over the past decade include a 2015 shooting rampage by a husband-and-wife team who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, and a 2016 massacre at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, by a gunman who fatally shot 49 people. □

Trump, in interview, defends his energy and health, offers new details on screening he underwent

By MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump defended his energy and health in an interview with The Wall Street Journal and disclosed that he had a CT scan, not an MRI scan, during an October examination about which he and the White House delayed offering details. Trump, in the interview published Thursday, said he regretted undergoing the advanced imaging on his heart and abdomen during an October visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center because it raised public questions about his health. His physician said in a memo the White House released in December that he had "advanced imaging" as a preventative screening for a man his age.

Trump had initially described it as an MRI but said he didn't know what part of his body he had scanned. A CT scan is a quicker form of diagnostic imaging than an MRI but offers less detail about differences in tissue.

The president's doctor, Navy Capt. Sean Barbabella, said in a statement released Thursday by the White House that Trump underwent the exam in October because he planned to be at Walter Reed to meet people working there. Trump had already undergone an annual physi-



President Donald Trump closes his eyes during a joint news conference with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy following a meeting at his Mar-a-Lago club, Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, in Palm Beach, Fla.

cal in April.

"President Trump agreed to meet with the staff and soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Hospital in October. In order to make the most of the President's time at the hospital, we recommended he undergo another routine physical evaluation to ensure continued optimal health," Barbabella said. Barbabella said he asked the president to undergo either a CT scan or MRI "to definitively rule out any cardiovascular issues" and the results were "perfectly nor-

mal and revealed absolutely no abnormalities."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement Thursday that the president's doctors and the White House have "always maintained the President received advanced imaging" but said that "additional details on the imaging have been disclosed by the President himself" because he "has nothing to hide."

"In retrospect, it's too bad I took it because it gave them a little ammunition," Trump said in the interview with The

Wall Street Journal. "I would have been a lot better off if they didn't, because the fact that I took it said, 'Oh gee, is something wrong?' Well, nothing's wrong." The 79-year-old became the oldest person to take the oath of office when he was sworn in as president last year and has been sensitive to questions about his health, particularly as he has repeatedly questioned his predecessor Joe Biden's fitness for office. Biden, who turned 82 in the last year of his presidency,

was dogged by scrutiny of his age and mental acuity at the end of his tenure and during his abandoned attempt to seek reelection. But questions have also swirled around Trump's health this year as he's been seen with bruising on the back of his right hand that has been conspicuous despite a slathering of makeup on top, along with noticeable swelling at his ankles. The White House this summer said the president had been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency, a common condition among older adults. The condition happens when veins in the legs can't properly carry blood back to the heart and it pools in the lower legs.

In the interview, Trump said he briefly tried wearing compression socks to address the swelling but stopped because he didn't like them. The bruising on Trump's hand, according to Leavitt, is from "frequent handshaking and the use of aspirin," which Trump takes regularly to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

He said he takes more aspirin than his doctors recommend but said he has resisted taking it for 25 years and said he is "a little superstitious." Trump takes 325 milligrams of aspirin daily, according to Barbabella. □

College football's Urban Meyer joins board of Florida college transformed by DeSantis

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — College football Hall of Famer Urban Meyer has been appointed to the board of trustees at a small public liberal arts college that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has transformed from a progressive institute into a staging ground for the Republican governor's war on "woke." DeSantis this week named Meyer to the board at New College in Sarasota, which the governor's allies took over two years ago by packing the board with DeSantis supporters and conservative figures.

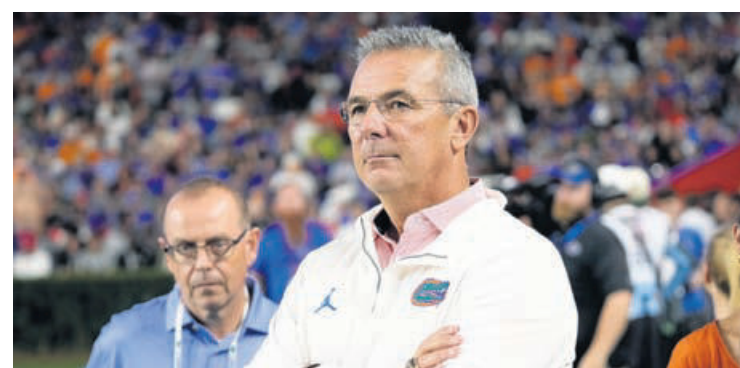
Meyer currently is a college

football analyst for FOX Sports. As head football coach at the University of Florida, Meyer led the Gators to two national championships in 2006 and 2008. Meyer also steered Ohio State's football team to a national championship in 2014. Meyer was the head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2021 during his only season leading an NFL team.

Urban's appointment, which is subject to confirmation by the state Senate, was announced Tuesday along with the reappointment of two other New College trustees. DeSantis targeted the tiny

school on the shores of Sarasota Bay two years ago as part of a campaign against what he calls "woke" ideology. The governor and his allies believed that New College, a progressive school with a prominent LGBTQ+ community, had been indoctrinating students with leftist teachings and should be revamped into a more conservative institution.

After DeSantis' allies took control off the school's board, they promptly fired the college president and replaced her with a Republican politician, the first of several administrators



Former Florida head coach Urban Meyer watches the first half of an NCAA college football game between Florida and Tennessee, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, in Gainesville, Fla.

Associated Press

to lose their jobs. They also dismantled the office of diversity and equity. Students compared the changes to "a hostile takeover," saying

the governor was dismantling what had been a safe place for many LGBTQ+ students who felt marginalized at other schools. □

Suspected deadly mountain lion attack in Colorado is not the first such harrowing encounter

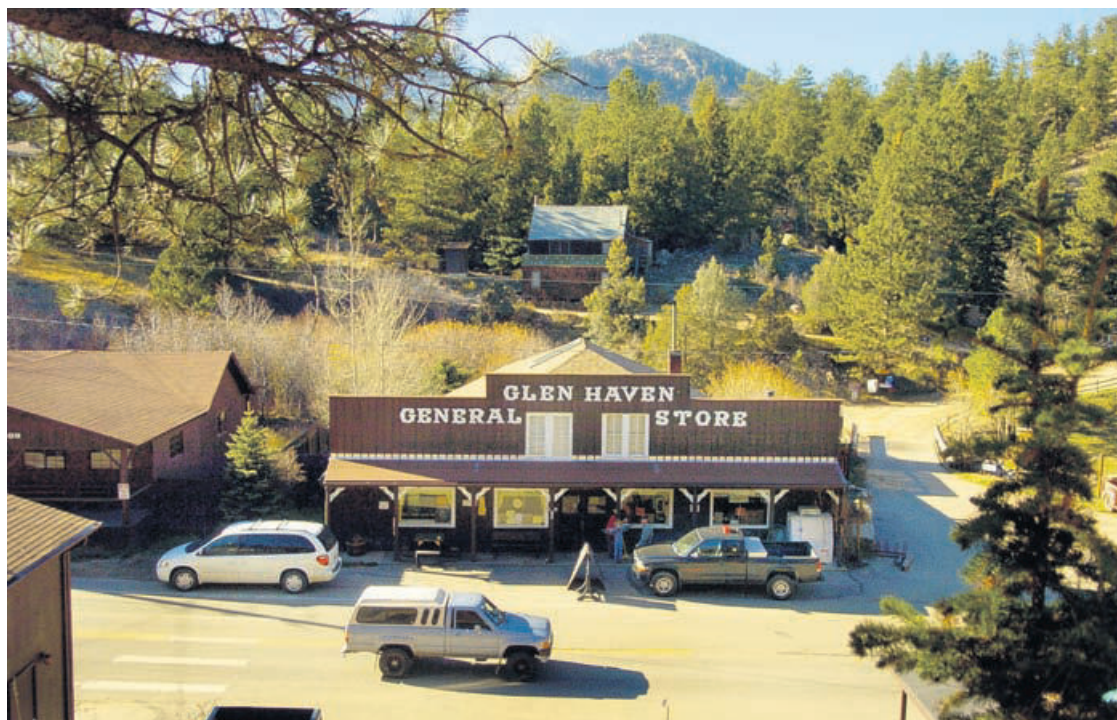
By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

A solo hiker who authorities believe was killed by a mountain lion on a remote Colorado trail on New Year's Day was not the first person to encounter a big cat in the area in recent weeks.

Gary Messina said he was running along the same trail on a dark November morning when his headlamp caught the gleam of two eyes in the nearby brush. Messina pulled out his phone and snapped a quick photo before a mountain lion rushed him.

Messina said he threw his phone at the animal, kicked dirt and yelled as the lion kept trying to circle behind him. After a couple of harrowing minutes he broke a bat-sized stick off a downed log, hit the lion in the head with it and it ran off, he said. The woman whose body was found Thursday on the same Crosier Mountain trail had "wounds consistent with a mountain lion attack," said Kara Van Hoose with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Officials were awaiting confirmation.

Wildlife officials later tracked down and killed two mountain lions in the area — one at the scene and another



The General Store is seen Oct. 24, 2006, in Glen Haven, Colo.

nearby. A necropsy will determine if either or both of those animals attacked the woman.

A search for a third mountain lion reported in the area was ongoing Friday, Van Hoose said. Trails in the area remained closed while the hunt for the animal continued. Van Hoose said circumstances would dictate whether that lion also is killed.

Based on the aggressiveness of the animal that attacked him on November 11, Mes-

sina suspects it could be the same one that killed the woman on New Year's Day. "I had to fight it off because it was basically trying to maul me," Messina told The Associated Press. "I was scared for my life and I wasn't able to escape. I tried backing up and it would try to lunge at me."

The 32-year-old man from nearby Glen Haven, Colorado, reported his encounter to wildlife officials days later who posted signs to warn people about the animal

along trails in the Crosier Mountain area northeast of Estes Park, Van Hoose said. Those signs were later removed.

Mountain lion sightings in that area east of Rocky Mountain National Park are common, Van Hoose said, because it offers good habitat for the big cats: It's remote with thick forests, rocky outcroppings and lots of elevation changes.

Yet attacks by the animals are rare, and the last suspected fatal encounter in

Colorado was in 1999, when a 3-year-old was killed. Two years before that, a 10-year-old boy was killed by a lion and dragged away while hiking with family members in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Two hikers on Thursday saw the victim's body on the trail at around noon from about 100 yards away, Van Hoose said. A mountain lion was nearby and they threw rocks to scare it away. One of the hikers, a physician, attended to the victim but did not find a pulse, Van Hoose said.

Formal identification of the victim was pending with the Larimer County Coroner, who is also expected to provide a cause of death.

Mountain lions — also known as cougars, pumas or catforms — can weigh 130 pounds (60 kilograms) and grow to more than six feet (1.8 meters) long. They primarily eat deer.

Colorado has an estimated 3,800-4,400 of the animals, which are classified as a big game species in the state and can be hunted.

Last year in Northern California, two brothers were stalked and attacked by a lion that they tried to fight off. One of the brothers was killed. □

Associated Press

Federal ruling blocks Hawaii's climate change tourist tax on cruise ships

By **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER**
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal appeals court ruling on New Year's Eve blocked Hawaii from enforcing a climate change tourist tax on cruise ships passengers, a levy that was set to go into effect at the start of 2026.

Cruise Lines International Association challenged the tax in a lawsuit, arguing that the new law violates the U.S. Constitution by taxing cruise ships for entering Hawaii ports. They also argued it would make cruises more expensive. The lawsuit notes the law authorizes counties to collect an additional 3% surcharge, bringing the total to 14% of prorated fares. The levy increases rates on hotel room and vacation rental stays but also imposes



A cruise ship, background, is docked in Honolulu, March 23, 2020.

a new 11% tax on the gross fares paid by a cruise ship's passenger, prorated for the number of days the vessels are in Hawaii ports. The lawsuit notes the law authorizes counties to collect an addi-

tional 3% surcharge, bringing the total to 14% of prorated fares.

In the nation's first such levy to help cope with a warming planet, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green signed legislation in

May that raises tax revenue to deal with eroding shorelines, wildfires and other climate problems. Officials estimate the tax would generate nearly \$100 million annually. U.S. District Judge Jill

Associated Press

A. Otake last week upheld the law and the plaintiffs appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. government intervened in the case and also appealed Otake's ruling.

The order by two 9th Circuit judges granted both requests for an injunction pending the appeals.

"We remain confident that Act 96 is lawful and will be vindicated when the appeal is heard on the merits," Toni Schwartz, spokesperson for the Hawaii attorney general's office, said in an email. The order temporarily halts enforcement of the law on cruise ships while the appeals process moves forward, her email noted. The lawsuit challenged only the law's cruise ship provisions. □

Police in Finland arrest 2 members of cargo ship's crew in connection with damage to undersea cable

By The Associated Press undefined

HELSINKI (AP) — Finnish authorities have arrested two members of a cargo ship's crew in connection with damage to an undersea telecommunications cable in the Gulf of Finland that occurred earlier this week between the capitals of Finland and Estonia, police said Thursday.

The damage was discovered early Wednesday in Estonia's exclusive economic zone. The cable belongs to Finnish telecommunications service provider Elisa and is considered to be critical underwater infrastructure.

Helsinki police have opened an investigation into aggravated criminal damage, attempted aggravated criminal damage and aggravated interference with telecommunications.

Officials placed two other crew members under travel bans as a result of the ongoing investigation, Helsinki police said in a statement Thursday.

Police would not release the ranks of the crew members aboard the ship, their nationalities or other details.

The ship, named the Fitburg, was flagged in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It had



Seized vessel Fitburg in the harbor of Kirkkonummi, Finland, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

Associated Press

been traveling from Russia to Israel. The 14 crew members hail from Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and were detained by Finnish authorities.

Finnish National Police Commissioner Ilkka Koskimäki said earlier this week that the ship was dragging its anchor for hours when it was discovered in Finland's exclusive economic zone. He noted investigators are not speculating on whether a state-level actor was behind the damage.

Finnish Customs discovered structural steel in the cargo that originated in Russia and falls under sanctions imposed by the European Union, the agency said in a statement. "Import of such sanctioned goods into the EU is prohibited under EU sanctions regulations," the statement said. "Finnish Customs continues to investigate the sequence of events and the applicability of EU sanctions legislation to this case."

The undersea cables and pipelines crisscross one of

the busiest shipping lanes in Europe, linking Nordic, Baltic and central European countries. They promote trade and energy security and, in some cases, reduce dependence on Russian energy resources. Finnish authorities last year charged the captain and two senior officers of a Russia-linked vessel, the Eagle S, that damaged undersea cables between Finland and Estonia on Christmas Day in 2024. The Finnish deputy prosecutor general said in an August statement that

charges of aggravated criminal mischief and aggravated interference with communications were filed against the captain and first and second officers of the oil tanker. The officers, whose names were not made public, denied the allegations, the statement said.

However, a Finnish court in October dismissed the charges because the damaged cables were outside Finland's territorial waters.

The Kremlin previously denied involvement in damaging the infrastructure, which provides power and communication for thousands of Europeans.

The Eagle S was flagged in the Cook Islands but had been described by Finnish customs officials and the European Union's executive commission as part of Russia's shadow fleet of fuel tankers. Those are aging vessels with obscure ownership, acquired to evade Western sanctions during the war in Ukraine and operating without Western-regulated insurance.

For the West, such incidents are believed to be part of widespread sabotage attacks in Europe allegedly linked to Moscow following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. □

Pakistan sentences journalists, YouTubers and ex-military officers to life over inciting violence

By MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A court in Pakistan's capital sentenced seven people, including three journalists, two YouTubers and two retired army officers, to life imprisonment on Friday, after convicting them of inciting violence during riots in 2023 and spreading hatred against state institutions. An anti-terrorism court judge, Tahir Abbas Sipra, announced the verdict in Islamabad after completing trials held in absentia.

None of the accused were present in court. They have been living abroad after leaving the country in recent years to avoid arrest.

Those convicted include former editor Shaheen Sehba;

two other journalists, Sabir Shakir and Moeed Pirzada; YouTubers Wajahat Saeed Khan and Haider Raza Mehdi; and retired army officers Adil Raja and Akbar Hussain. According to the court order, the charges against the men stemmed from the violent unrest that erupted in May 2023 following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in a graft case.

At the time, thousands of Khan's supporters attacked military installations, torched government property, ransacked the residence of a senior army officer and damaged the state-run Radio Pakistan building.

Khan was also indicted in 2024 on charges of inciting violence against military and

government targets. He has denied the allegations. He was ousted from power by his political opponents through a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April 2022.

According to the prosecution, the seven men, who are known for publicly supporting Khan, had incited people to violence during the riots on May 9, 2023, when demonstrators targeted military installations, because Khan repeatedly blamed his removal on the United States and Pakistan's military.

The U.S. government, the Pakistani military and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who replaced Khan after his ouster, have denied the allegations.

Sabir Shakir, who previously



Supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan take cover after riot police officers fire tear gas to disperse them during clashes, in Lahore, Pakistan, Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Associated Press

hosted a popular television program on ARY TV before leaving Pakistan, told The Associated Press on Friday that he was aware of his

conviction in Pakistan. He said that he wasn't in the country when police accused him of encouraging mob violence. □

A grandmother and her grandson burn to death in a Gaza tent as humanitarian crisis deepens

By **WAFAA SHURAF**

Associated Press

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A grandmother and her 5-year-old grandson

burned to death in Gaza when their tent caught fire, as thousands of Palestinians battle harrowing winter conditions in flimsy makeshift housing and the humanitarian crisis deepens.

The nylon tent in Yarmouk caught fire Thursday night from cooking, a neighbor said.

As 2026 begins, the shaky 12-week-old ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has largely ended large-scale Israeli bombardment of Gaza. But Palestinians are still being killed almost daily by Israeli fire, and the humanitarian crisis shows no signs of abating.

Over past weeks, cold winter rains have repeatedly lashed the sprawling tent cities, causing flooding, turning Gaza's dirt roads into mud and causing buildings damaged in Israeli bombardment to collapse. UNICEF says at least six children have now died of weather-related causes, including a 4-year-old who died in a building collapse. At least three children have died of hypothermia, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Aid groups say not enough shelter materials are getting into Gaza during the truce.



Fatima Abu al-Bayd inspects what remains of her mother's tent after her mother, Amal Abu Al-Khair, and grandchild, Saud, were killed when it caught fire overnight at the Yarmouk displacement camp in Gaza City, Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

Associated Press

Figures recently released by Israel's military suggest it hasn't met the ceasefire stipulation of allowing 600 trucks of aid into Gaza a day, though Israel disputes that finding. There is also concern that Israel's recent suspension of more than three dozen international aid groups from operating in Gaza will make it even harder to get supplies like tents in.

Palestinians have long called for mobile homes and caravans to be allowed in to protect them against living

in impractical and worn out tents. In Yarmouk people live in nylon tents near a garbage dump.

Ashraf al-Suwair said he woke up to the sound of screaming as his neighbors shouted "fire! fire!" He said the nylon is like fuel, easy to ignite. "We need a good place that suits the people and the children of Gaza, instead of burning to death," he said.

Foreign ministers say Gaza isn't getting the help it needs. On Friday the foreign ministers of Arab and Muslim

countries, including Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, expressed concern about Gaza's deteriorating humanitarian situation.

The situation has been "compounded by the continued lack of sufficient humanitarian access, acute shortages of essential life-saving supplies, and the slow pace of the entry of essential materials," said the joint statement. Since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas began, 414 people have been killed and 1,142 wounded in Gaza, according to the Health Min-

istry. The overall Palestinian death toll from the war is at least 71,266. The ministry, which does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its count, is staffed by medical professionals and maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by the international community.

The Israel-Hamas war began with the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Israel carries out more West Bank raids and arrests

Meanwhile, Israel continues operating in the occupied West Bank.

On Friday the Palestinian Prisoners media office said Israel carried out wide scale raids across the territory including Ramallah and Hebron. Nearly 50 people were detained. Israel's military said there were arrests made of people "involved in terrorist activity." This follows the arrest of at least 50 other Palestinians on Thursday, most of those occurred in the Ramallah area. The Palestinian Prisoner's Society says that Israel has arrested 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem this year, and 21,000 since the war began Oct. 7, 2023.

The number arrested from Gaza is not made public by Israel. □



President Nicolas Maduro joins a rally marking the anniversary of the Battle of Santa Ines, which took place during Venezuela's 19th-century Federal War, in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025.

Associated Press

By **REGINA GARCIA CANO**

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela is open to ne-

gotiating an agreement with the United States to combat drug trafficking, the South American country's President

Maduro open to U.S. talks on drug trafficking, but silent on CIA strike

Nicolás Maduro said in a pre-taped interview aired Thursday on state television, but he declined to comment on a CIA-led strike last week at a Venezuelan docking area that the Trump administration believed was used by cartels.

Maduro, in an interview with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet, reiterated that the U.S. wants to force a government change in Venezuela and gain access to its vast oil reserves through the monthslong pressure campaign that began with a massive military deployment to the Caribbean Sea

in August.

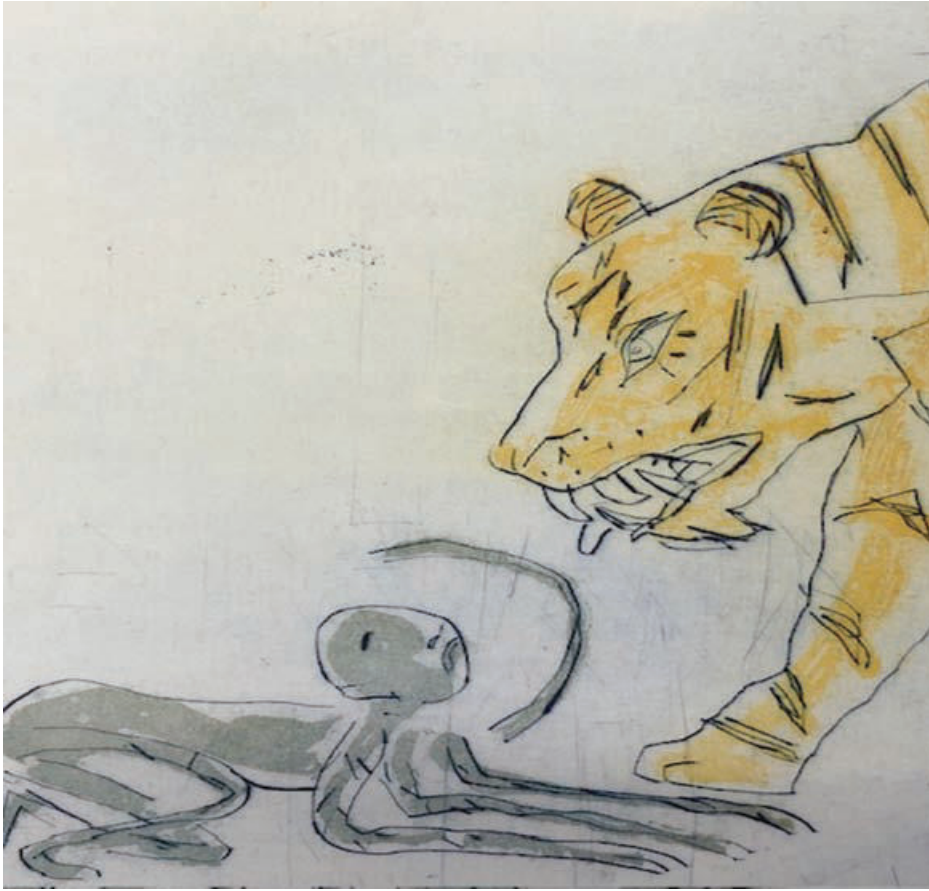
"What are they seeking? It is clear that they seek to impose themselves through threats, intimidation and force," Maduro said, later adding that it is time for both nations to "start talking seriously, with data in hand."

"The U.S. government knows, because we've told many of their spokespeople, that if they want to seriously discuss an agreement to combat drug trafficking, we're ready," he said. "If they want oil, Venezuela is ready for U.S. investment, like with Chevron, whenever they want it, wherever they want

it and however they want it."

Chevron Corp. is the only major oil company exporting Venezuelan crude to the U.S. Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves. The interview was taped on New Year's Eve, the same day the U.S. military announced strikes against five alleged drug-smuggling boats. The latest attacks bring the total number of known boat strikes to 35 and the number of people killed to at least 115, according to numbers announced by the Trump administration. Venezuelans are among the victims. □

Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger



Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are

such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos

away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

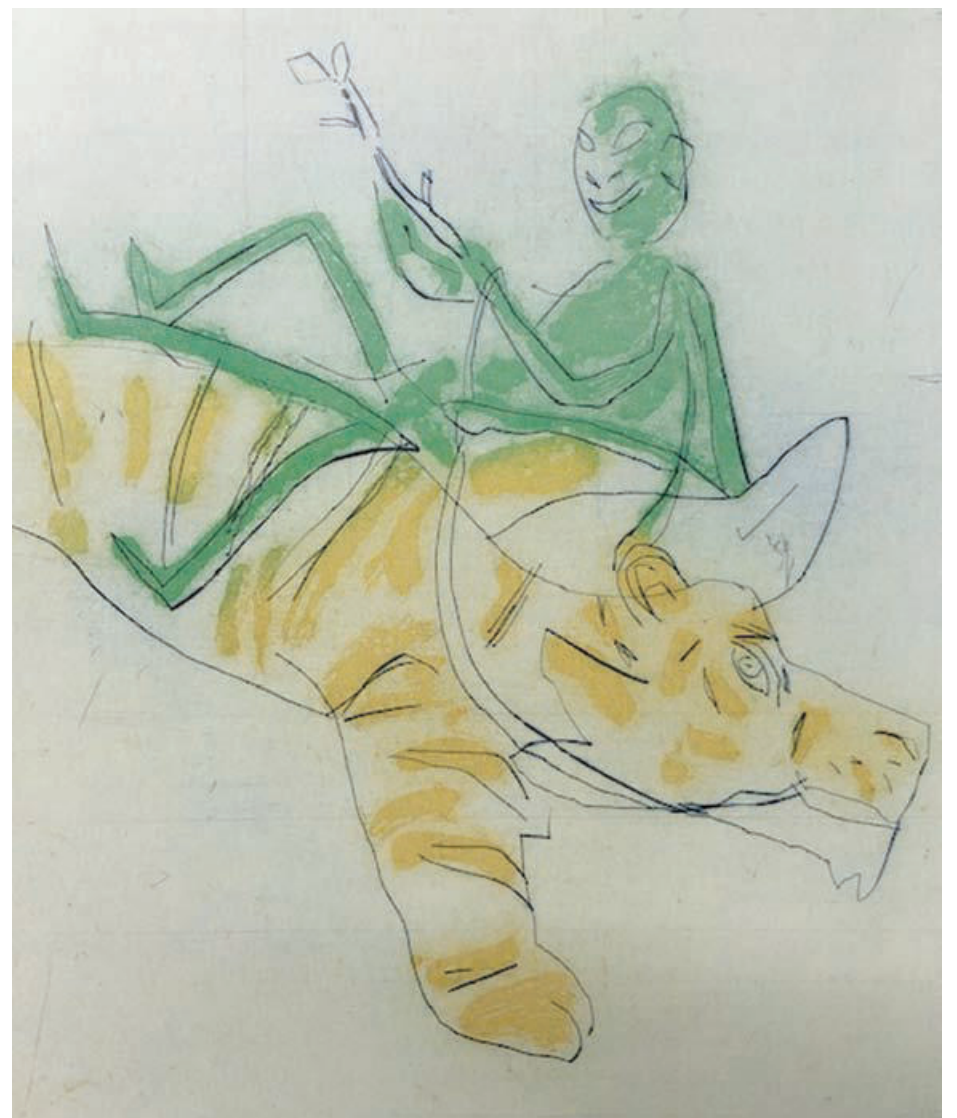
Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.



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(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the

Blackstone Beach

white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road

leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Create museum memories with the entire family!

Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you to these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank

at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foundation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page: Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian

cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1,700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial

agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba uses approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the



visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open daily from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page National Archaeological Museum Aruba or website: www.manaruba.org

Editor's note: Pictures are property of the respective museums. □

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern

part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

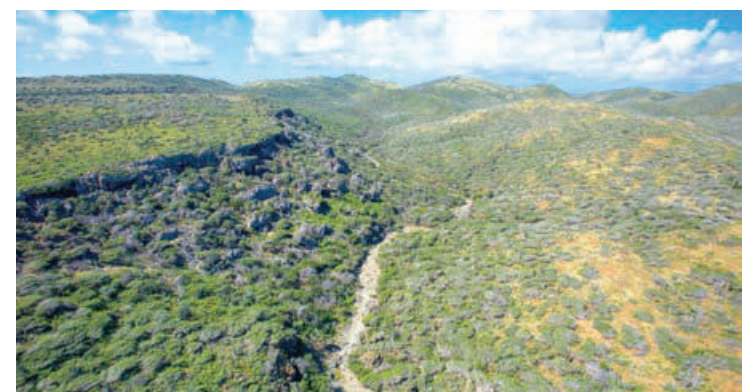
There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest



to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

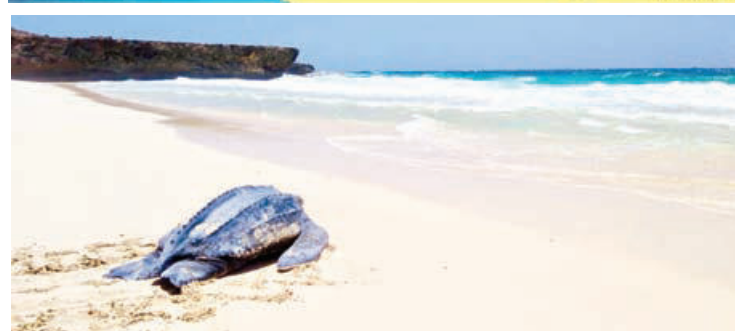
These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water

birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced



with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the

same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish!

Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the

island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other



delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Adriaan Laclé: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his heyday he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.



Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba



(Oranjestad)—There may be as many as 200 to 300 houses in Aruba that have beautiful decorations, including curtains, stars, flowers, half-moons, etc., placed on the corners or the upper parts of the house.

These houses can be found everywhere, in nearly every district of Aruba. People always thought that these designs came from an Indigenous culture; possibly, the star design resembled the way it was shown, similar to the "God Sun" of the Indigenous people. However, the history of this decorative system does not go very far back in time.

In his book *Millefiori di Aruba*, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the home of Mr. Bernardo Eman

Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of the house. Other people in Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their houses decorated in the same way.

Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus of Pos Chikito learned the work from Janchi Christiaans and, together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, continued decorating houses in Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy Semeleer, and others from Noord, such as Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs, and Cornelis Rosa, brought the same decoration to houses in Noord and Paradera. In 1927, Janchi

Christiaans built a house for Julian Tromp in Buguruy.

This was the first house in Noord to receive this type of decoration. Later, those in Paradera, Santa Cruz, and Savaneta copied the house decorations. They practiced these systems up until 1944.

Even today, the patterns are well preserved and protected, but they are no longer used.

Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination into expressive art.

However, the decoration of houses was not originally Janchi Christiaans's idea. Janchi was a disciple of his father, Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. They also made these decorations, though without using any patterns, simply designing and applying them with common plaster as the material.

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's *Aruba, Breve Historia* as reference, I noticed that he also writes that these designs are not indigenous symbols, but only decorative fantasies.

One point of disagreement is that he wrote that in 1820 someone from Curaçao began this type of decoration in Aruba.

This means that, according to Father Nooyen, who declared that it began in 1920, it would have actually started 100 years earlier. As part of his research, Ito Tromp also interviewed Mr. Julio Maduro of the Department of Labor at that time, who told him that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff began with house decorations. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this from his grandfather, who in earlier times had built the first lighthouse at California Point.

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.

Julio Maduro said that in 1920 they began again with this type of decoration. In general, there is no specific year (up to now) when Arubans first began with this decorative artistic expression. It is interesting to know that these decorations are a kind of symbol for several generations.

For example: Decorations that appear on the house of the Arends family could also be seen on the houses of the Bermudez or Croes families. This was because parents always gave a specific sign to their sons or daughters when they were getting married.

It was also said that these designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

As for the continuation of these designs from family to family, this is a cultural heritage that is no longer established. For this reason, in earlier times, every young man who married had to have his own house; otherwise, there would be no marriage.

The designs were created according to the individual's imagination. If he saw, for example, six pairs of birds on a tree, he would then paint six pairs of birds on a tree. If he wanted to express his love for his twin children, then he designed a twin.

Nowadays, if you want to use these designs for your house, don't worry—you can simply copy them and paint them. □

Source: E casnan Decora na Aruba (1976) by Ito Tromp.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 "Olympia"

1 "Waterloo" painter

group 39 Original

5 Robe 40 Pub

feature brews

9 Fixes, 41 Water

as holey source

socks

11 Mercutio's

friend 1 Make up

12 Deceive lines

13 Cheering loudly 10 Gets serious

14 — bind name 11 "Dog-gone!"

15 Players at the plate 16 Craft show's

17 Improves worker cousin

19 Small worker 18 Warty critter

20 Brief celled 21 Easy run

21 Young fellow 23 Chooses

22 Con-cerning 7 Blackened to partici-

24 Thrifty 37 At present

26 Left on a liner

29 Middle-earth baddie

30 Old-fashioned ingredient

32 Tops, as toast

34 Boar's mate

35 Old market

36 Blown away

ASSAIL APES
WEIRDO MESA
LADIES FIRST
SATIN
TOES BUST
JAMS DESPOT
AXE WAR RUE
REGARD LATE
SALE PAYS
ASPEN
FIRST LADIES
ERIK ORANGE
DADA PLUNGE

DOWN

1 Make up

2 Johnson's

middle

name

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4 Small

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34 Boar's mate

35 Old market

36 Blown away

30 Old-fashioned ingredient

32 Tops, as toast

34 Boar's mate

35 Old market

36 Blown away

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

X R F S Q H I J L Q E Q H

W B O W F S S Q R I Q F

Y H B Y Q M O . — S Q D D E Y W B I Q F

Cryptoquote: YOU KNOW HOW I ALWAYS DREAD THE WHOLE YEAR? WELL, THIS TIME I'M ONLY GOING TO DREAD ONE DAY AT A TIME. — CHARLIE BROWN

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 03 - 07 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	03	AIDAPERLA	09.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	04	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
MON	05	EUROPA 2	08.00	18.00	B	1
		VALIANT LADY	09.00	19.00	C	1
TUE	06	SEABOUR OVATION	07.00	21.00	C	1
WED	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

5							9	3
					5			2
1	9			2			6	
	6	9				2		
	7					3		
4			1				7	
		6		5	3			
		4	8			1		
7		3	2	6			4	

Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	1	6	9	3	7	5	4
9	5	3	1	4	7	8	6	2
7	6	4	5	2	8	1	9	3
3	4	2	7	1	9	6	8	5
5	8	7	4	6	2	3	1	9
1	9	6	3	8	5	2	4	7
4	7	8	2	5	1	9	3	6
2	1	5	9	3	6	4	7	8
6	3	9	8	7	4	5	2	1

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/3

Foods with healthy-sounding buzzwords could be hiding added sugar in plain sight



This photo illustration shows granulated sugar falling from a spoon, in Philadelphia, on Sept. 12, 2016.

Associated Press

By **ALBERT STUMM**
Associated Press

Many consumers feel pride in avoiding the glazed pastries in the supermarket and instead opting for "all natural" granola that comes packed with extra protein. Same goes for low-fat yogurts "made with real fruit," organic plant-based milks and bottled "super-food" smoothies. Buyer beware: Healthy grocery buzzwords like those often cover up an unhealthy amount of sugar. Added sugars are difficult to quickly spot because many companies use clever marketing to distract consumers, said Nicole Avena, a professor of neuroscience and psychiatry at Mount Sinai Medical School and Princeton University who has studied added sugars.

Avena said while some health-forward brands know people are starting to become aware of the hazards of added sugars, "a lot of the bigger brands don't worry so much about people's health." Here's how to spot hidden sugars and what to do about it. What to look for Along with saturated fat and salt, eating excess sugar is linked to heart disease, obesity, diabetes and other health risks. The average American consumes 17 teaspoons of added sugar a day, which adds up to 57 pounds (26 kilograms) per year, according to the American Heart Association. About half of that comes from beverages, but much of the rest is sneaked into cereal, salsa, prepared sandwiches,

dairy products, bottled sauces and baked goods, including many brands of whole-grain bread. To help control sugar intake, start by checking the nutrition label. Since 2021, food companies have been required to list the quantity of added sugars separately from total sugar content. But the plan backfired, Avena said. Companies reduced common sweeteners like refined beet sugar and high-fructose corn syrup but added alternatives, such as monk fruit and the sugar alcohol erythritol, which aren't considered "added sugars" under FDA regulations. "Now our foods are even more sweet than they were back in 2020," Avena said. Collin Popp, a dietitian and professor at NYU Langone Health, said the current FDA recommendation allows for some flexibility. People should get no more than 10% of their calories from added sugar, which amounts to about 50 grams per day if eating 2,000 calories, or a bit more than what's in a typical can of soda. But that might be too flexible, Popp said. "I would actually like to see that be less than 5%, and closer to zero for some, if they have diabetes or pre-diabetes," he said. The key is to be mindful of what you're eating, even if the product seems healthy or if the package is labeled organic, Popp said. Roasted nuts, plant-based milks and wasabi peas, for example, can include a surprising amount of added sugars. So can English muffins and Greek yogurt. One Chobani black cherry yogurt, for example, has zero grams of fat but 9 grams of added sugar, or more than 2 teaspoons. Silk brand almond milk has 7 grams per cup. Popp recommends taking control of how much sugar goes into your food. That could mean buying plain yogurt and adding honey or berries, or asking the

barista if you can put your own oat milk into your coffee. Taking from one column to add to another Although they lower the calorie content of foods, artificial sweeteners like stevia and sugar alcohols may not be better because they can encourage people to overeat, Avena said. She said research shows that sweet flavors are what activate the reward center of the brain, not the sugar itself. That's not to write off sugar alternatives, including allulose for people with Type 1 diabetes since it doesn't affect blood sugar. But for the general public, minimizing dependence on the overall sweetness of food is key to improving health, she said. "Don't let the food companies decide how much sugar you're eating," Avena said. □



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7 things you may not know about dividends

Amy C. Arnott of Morningstar
I recently dug into the pros and cons of dividend reinvestment. Readers of the article sent me questions about other dividend-related topics. Here are some of the most common questions I got:

What should I know about reinvested dividends and wash sales?

Reinvesting dividends means purchasing additional shares, which can complicate sales or tax-loss harvesting in taxable accounts. The IRS' wash-sale rules prohibit claiming a tax loss after a sale if you've purchased the same or "substantially identical" security 30 days before or after selling. You could wait at least 30 days after a dividend before selling, and make sure to sell at least 30 days before the next dividend, but to reduce hassle, it's probably best not to reinvest dividends for holdings that you plan to sell soon.

If I reinvest dividends, will I end up with fractional shares that are difficult to sell?

Reinvesting dividends typically means purchasing small amounts that get added to your existing stock/fund position. You'll probably end up with fractional shares, where you own only part of a share. Most major brokerages let you sell fractional shares, but you typically need to sell fractional shares as a market order,



Trader William Lawrence works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Dec. 11, 2025. Associated Press

and liquidating fractional shares may take an additional day.

How are dividends taxed?

For stocks and stock funds, the tax rate depends on whether the dividend is qualified or nonqualified (also called ordinary). Dividends are qualified if you meet the 60-day holding requirement within a 121-day window around the ex-dividend date; these are taxed at capital gains rates — 0% or 15% for most people. Others are taxed as ordinary income. Dividends from holdings that don't meet these requirements are nonqualified and are taxed as ordinary income.

Bond or bond fund payments are considered interest income and are typically taxed as ordinary income. Income from Treasury bonds is exempt from state and local taxes, and income from municipal bonds is usually exempt from federal, state, and local taxes, depending on the issuer's location.

Are reinvested dividends taxable?

As I mentioned in another article, dividends for holdings in taxable accounts are taxable whether taken in cash or reinvested. If you reinvest dividends, you'll need to add each dividend to the holding's cost basis. You could end up with many

separate tax lots with different cost-basis levels. When you sell the stock, you'll need to match each sale with a specific tax lot.

Are stocks that pay dividends better?

Money is fungible — it doesn't matter whether you receive it as income or capital appreciation. A company's value shouldn't depend on whether it pays a dividend. However, behavioral finance researchers have found that many investors perceive dividends as more stable and predictable than capital gains. Tax issues are another important consideration.

How do dividend-oriented

strategies perform in a recession?

Dividend stocks historically hold up well during economic slowdowns and can provide downside protection in drawdowns. However, funds that focus on high-yield stocks without incorporating quality screens tend to be more exposed to economically sensitive sectors, and companies that may not be able to keep paying dividends during recessions.

Can I live off my portfolio's dividends and interest income in retirement?

Some investors like this approach. Dividends can create steady income similar to a regular paycheck, and many investors like the idea of leaving their principal untouched.

However, it can be tough to create a portfolio that generates enough yield for an income-only approach, especially one that keeps pace with inflation.

An income-only approach to support retirement spending might mean you'd need to amass a larger portfolio. By the same token, an income-focused approach means you would likely be underspending during retirement and might end up with a large portfolio balance after death. That might appeal to retirees who have a strong interest in leaving a bequest, but limits your spending while you're alive. □

Tesla loses title as world's biggest electric vehicle maker as sales fall for second year in a row



The Tesla logo is displayed at a Tesla dealership Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025, in Miami.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tesla lost its crown as the world's bestselling electric vehi-

cle maker on Friday as a customer revolt over Elon Musk's right-wing politics,

expiring U.S. tax breaks for buyers and stiff overseas competition pushed sales down for a second year in a row. Tesla said that it delivered 1.64 million vehicles in 2025, down 9% from a year earlier.

Chinese rival BYD, which sold 2.26 million vehicles last year, is now the biggest EV maker.

It's a stunning reversal for Musk who once dismissed BYD as a threat as Tesla's rise seemed unstoppable, crushing traditional automakers with far more resources and helping make him the world's richest man.

For the fourth quarter, sales totaled 418,227, falling short of the 440,000 that analysts polled by FactSet expected. The sales total was impacted by the expiration of a \$7,500 tax credit that was phased out by the Trump administration at the end of September.

Tesla stock was up 0.5% at \$451.60 in early trading Friday. Even with multiple issues buffeting the company, investors are betting that Tesla CEO Musk can deliver on his ambitions to make Tesla a leader in robotaxi service and get consumers to embrace

humanoid robots that can perform basic tasks in homes and offices. Reflecting that optimism, the stock finished 2025 with a gain of approximately 11%. The latest quarter was the first with sales of stripped-down versions of the Model Y and Model 3 that Musk unveiled in early October as part of an effort to revive sales. The new Model Y costs just under \$40,000 while customers can buy the cheaper Model 3 for under \$37,000. Those versions are expected to help Tesla compete with Chinese models in Europe and Asia. □

Oregon-Indiana headed for a rematch, Ole Miss to play Miami as college football's final four is set

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) —

When Indiana met Oregon in October, the game served as the best test yet of whether the Hoosiers were a one-year wonder or a program that was here to stay.

They met that challenge with a double-digit win that snapped Oregon's 18-game home winning streak. Next week comes a rematch with a trip to the national title game at stake.

A pair of Big Ten blowouts in Thursday's quarterfinals — Indiana 38, Alabama 3 and Oregon 23, Texas Tech 0 — set up Oregon-Indiana, Part 2 in the national semifinals at the Peach Bowl next Friday.

"Why would it be too big for them? Because the name's 'Indiana?'" Hoosiers coach Curt Cignetti said after his team passed its latest big-time test.

Indiana was the only team of the eight with first-round byes in the two-year history of the playoff to win their quarterfinal.

The other semifinal will feature Miami against Ole Miss in the Fiesta Bowl next Thursday. It will be a matchup between Hurricanes QB Carson Beck and the Rebels, who are now 2-0 since the abrupt departure of coach Lane Kiffin. The sixth-seeded Rebels (13-1) rallied from nine points down at halftime to beat Georgia 39-34 Thursday in



Oregon linebacker Matayo Uigalelei (10) reacts after intercepting the football during the second half of the Orange Bowl College Football Playoff quarterfinal game against Texas Tech, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

the Sugar Bowl.

The top-seeded Hoosiers (14-0) opened as a four-point favorite in their rematch with No. 5 Oregon (13-1), according to the BetMGM Sportsbook. The Ducks closed as 7.5-point favorites in the October meeting that Indiana won 30-20. This blowout win over the Crimson Tide might have been Indiana's most impressive performance since the win at Oregon.

In that one, Ducks defensive back Brandon Finney, who had two interceptions and a fumble recovery against Texas Tech, returned an in-

terception for a touchdown to tie the game at 20 early in the fourth quarter. But Indiana answered with a touchdown drive, an interception and a field goal for a double-digit win over the previous season's Big Ten champion.

The most intriguing matchup in this game isn't hard to find. Quarterbacks Fernando Mendoza of Indiana Dante Moore of Oregon are projected as the top two picks on many 2026 draft boards. Mendoza is trying to join a rarified list of quarterbacks (among them, Jameis Win-

ston, Cam Newton and Matt Leinart) who have won the Heisman and the national title in the same season.

"It's going to be a great matchup, and all respect to them," Mendoza said of the Ducks. "I've got to get the game plan and got to get to watching film now." Oregon is coming off a defensive domination of Texas Tech. The Ducks created four turnovers that led to 13 points. Moore, meanwhile, was held in relative check, throwing for 234 yards and no scores. "We go back look at this game, say 'What did

we do really well?'" Oregon coach Dan Lanning said. "Let's go to the doctor, let's figure out what kind of medicine we have to take for the next game. I think that's always the best indicator of what you have to do when you start to analyze what you have in front of you."

Ole Miss and Miami meet for first time since 1951

The 10th-seeded Hurricanes, who beat Ohio State on New Year's Eve, haven't faced Mississippi since 1951. But this is a matchup steeped in the modern-day realities of college football.

Beck, the Miami quarterback, played at Georgia last season, but an injury in the SEC title game ended his season and sent his draft stock plummeting.

Looking for a change of scenery, Beck bolted for Miami and the reported \$4 million NIL deal it offered. It was the first seismic move in the 2025 transfer portal.

Over in Oxford, the drama of Kiffin's departure for a job at SEC-rival LSU overshadowed the best season in program history, but didn't stop the chase for a title.

"We've got a great group of people in the building," said coach Pete Golding, who took over for Kiffin. "We've got a lot of guys going through a lot of things but they've been here for the kids all the time and it's a special group of kids." □

Venus Williams is back at the Australian Open 5 years after her last appearance, 28 after her 1st



Venus Williams, of the United States, returns a shot with partner Leylah Fernandez, of Canada, during a quarterfinal doubles match at the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sept. 2, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams has received a

wild-card entry for the Australian Open beginning Jan. 18 in Melbourne.

The tournament said Friday

that the 45-year-old Williams would make a return to Melbourne Park 28 years after her first appearance. In 1998, she defeated her younger sister Serena in the second round before losing in the quarterfinals to fellow American Lindsay Davenport.

Venus had announced in November that she would play in Auckland, New Zealand, where she also received a wild card, two weeks before the Australian Open. The Australian Open said Williams was also entered to play a tournament

in Hobart, Australia a week later and just before play begins at Melbourne Park. She last appeared in Melbourne in 2021 and has finished runner-up in the women's singles twice, losing to Serena in the finals in 2003 and 2017.

"I'm excited to be back in Australia and looking forward to competing during the Australian summer," Williams said. "I've had so many incredible memories there, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to a place that has meant so much to my career."

Williams' record at Melbourne Park is 54 wins and 21 losses. This year will be the 22nd time she has appeared in the main draw.

The tournament said Williams is set to become the oldest woman to compete in an Australian Open main draw, surpassing the record previously held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 when she lost in the first round at Melbourne Park in 2015.

In late December, Williams married Danish-born model and actor Andrea Prete at Palm Beach, Florida. □

Top draft pick could be on the line for Raiders when they host the Chiefs

By **MARK ANDERSON**

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — For a game between teams with losing records to end the regular season, there is quite a bit at stake — especially for the Raiders.

Las Vegas is in position for the top pick in next year's draft, a potentially franchise-altering selection the Raiders would clinch with a loss to the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday. The Raiders are guaranteed at least the No. 2 choice and could get the top pick even with a victory. That's not at the top of coach Pete Carroll's mind nor his players, and regardless of the outcome this weekend, there figures to be plenty of change in Las Vegas (2-14), which brings in a 10-game losing streak. That change could include Carroll after just one season in charge. He is a noted optimist and speaks about the future of the club as if he's going to oversee where it goes from here, and owner Mark Davis hasn't spoken publicly about his intentions in recent weeks.

"We're playing Kansas City. They won the freaking division for 10 years straight or whatever it is," Carroll said. "It'll be fun to play them. Fun to go against (Chiefs coach) Andy (Reid). There's no reason for us to think about anything other than playing ball. So, from the locker



New York Giants running back Devin Singletary (26) scores touchdown against the Las Vegas Raiders during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

room, that's what I said to them afterward, that we got one week to do something special."

This is new territory for the Chiefs (6-10), who not only have ruled the AFC West since 2016, they have appeared five of the past six Super Bowls, winning the Lombardi Trophy three times during that span as the decade's dominant franchise. The 67-year-old Reid ended any speculation about his future this past week, saying he plans to return next season. He'll have to find a way to get Kansas City back into contention, and getting

a healthy Patrick Mahomes back early next season will be a good place to start.

The Chiefs will have a top-15 pick in the draft to assist general manager Brett Veach in his efforts to put talent around their star quarterback.

"Something to look forward to," Reid said. "It's not where you want to be, but it is where we are, and we've got good people doing the picking, headed by Brett."

Third string, second start
Chiefs quarterback Chris Oladokun will make his second NFL start. The backup to Mahomes and former Raider

Gardner Minshew, both out with torn knee ligaments, was just 13 of 22 for 66 yards with a touchdown last week against Denver, though he did make a couple of nice plays with his legs.

Oladokun got only a couple of days to prepare for the Thursday night matchup, so perhaps 11 days to get ready for Las Vegas will help. "We'll get the normal week in of work and look forward to seeing what he does with that," Reid said. "He did a nice job last week of getting everything together and organizing and was able to manage the game well."

Raiders quarterback talk

An ankle injury probably will keep quarterback Geno Smith on the sideline, meaning he might have played his final game for the Raiders. Kenny Pickett has been ahead of Aidan O'Connell on the depth chart, but Carroll said he expected both to play. Pickett will start.

"I don't think that (Smith's) going to be able to make that recovery," Carroll said. "We wish that he could, and I hate closing the door on any opportunity, but it's going to be really hard for him."

Crosby prepares for surgery
Raiders defensive end Maxx Crosby wasn't pleased about being shut down last week, leaving the facility on Friday. He returned on Monday, and while he still isn't thrilled about not playing anymore this season, Crosby said on the "Let's Go" podcast with Jim Gray that he's looking ahead to his upcoming knee surgery.

"You can look at it as, 'Damn, I got to do this again and it's getting old,'" Crosby said. "Or you can say, 'No, this is an opportunity. I can improve.'"

Protecting the QB

The Chiefs expect to start Esa Pole, Kingsley Suamataia, Creed Humphrey, Mike Caliendo and Chu Godrick from left to right along the offensive line on Sunday. That would be their fifth and sixth offensive tackles and the backup right guard. □

Durant has been hurt the way Jokic was. He hopes the Nuggets star doesn't also become 'injury prone'



Houston Rockets forward Kevin Durant (7) handles the ball against Brooklyn Nets guard Cam Thomas, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, in New York.

Associated Press

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin

Durant left what ended up being his final game with the Brooklyn Nets after getting

hurt similar to the way Nikola Jokic just was.

In fact, Durant missed time two seasons in a row with a knee injury caused when someone fell into his leg.

"One thing I don't want to see with Nikola is like, they started calling me 'injury prone' after that, but hopefully they don't start with him because it's one of those freak injuries that you can't really control," Durant said Thursday night after the Rockets beat the Nets 120-96 in his return to Brooklyn.

"You can do all the work you can, but somebody falls into your knee, that's just tough."

Jokic, the three-time NBA MVP, was hurt Monday night in Miami when Denver teammate Spencer Jones stepped on the center's left foot while defending a drive by Miami's Jaime Jaquez Jr. as time was about to expire in the second quarter. Jokic's knee buckled a bit and he collapsed to the court, grabbing at the knee. The Nuggets said Tuesday he will be evaluated again in four weeks.

Durant sprained the medial collateral ligament of his left knee in January 2022 when teammate Bruce Brown was knocked backward and fell

into his knee. He ended up missing 21 games with that injury.

Then, Durant was hurt on the same court as Jokic when then-Heat star Jimmy Butler fell backward into his right knee in a Jan. 8, 2023, game, causing another sprained ligament. He never played again for the Nets, who traded him to Phoenix a month later. He finally got on the court for the Suns in March after a 20-game absence.

Jokic's injury was a hyperextension, perhaps allowing him to return more quickly. □